

*The Light - Junior Series*  
*Lesson 71*

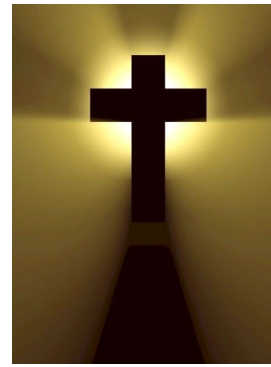
*Knowing Good and Evil through Discernment*  
*From*  
*The Word of God*



2013

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sin of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven.



*(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved."*

*(John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave us One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

## Lesson

DISCERNMENT is the ability "to evaluate and judge rightly or smartly"... "to be able to judge," the "ability to make judgments," and the "ability to decide what is true and what is false." We've been looking at discernment for a while and I want you to truly understand it, kids, because it is SO VERY IMPORTANT in your life to be able to do this and avoid bad situations in spite of the enemy.



You have the Holy Spirit inside you to help guide you BUT you MUST also have the WORD of GOD inside you as well to be able to discern or judge wisely.

This word for discernment is actually used in [1 Cor 12:10](#). Paul the Apostle was writing to the Corinthian church about spiritual gifts and one of the gifts he taught them about was "distinguishing between spirits" (true ones and false ones). This particular temporary gift gave some believers the ability to tell whether they were learning the Truth or false things taught by false teachers and whether it came from the Holy Spirit or not. The Bible wasn't in writing then so they had this temporary spiritual gift for certain believers to be able to tell the difference and help others understand what was right and wrong. This gift was removed after the Bible was completed in writing.

You know we have an enemy, Satan, and he wants to STOP you from learning the Word and using discernment so you'll be spiritually STUPID! He wants to trick and mislead you!!! Is this what you want? No, of course not because when we are spiritually stupid, we can't discern or tell what is right or wrong, true or false, good or evil. If you are unable to tell the difference, you will be in a heap of trouble in your life!!!



SATAN

I want to focus on being able through the Holy Spirit to tell the difference between GOOD and EVIL in this lesson.

So let's get going and learn all about how to be spiritually smart...geniuses in fact!

Now we have learned that Satan has been a liar from the beginning. His game is to try to mislead you, and his weapon is counterfeits or fakes. He's really good at this, an expert in fact! And his best counterfeit is one that is as close to the real thing as possible in order to fool you. He especially wants you to think that evil is a good thing and he disguises evil so it will look good to you!!! Don't worry though, the Holy Spirit and the Word in your soul will help you BIG TIME to be able to tell the difference and to understand what God wants you to know about it.



You know that Satan wants to be like the most High God and the first lie he told the human race was what? That if they disobeyed the Word of God, they would become like God...knowing...knowing what? GOOD and EVIL!

Let's read what he did in [Gen 3:4-5](#). "The serpent (Satan, the devil) said to the woman, 'You surely will not die! (5) For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing GOOD and EVIL.'"

Open your Bibles to [Gen 2:15-3:6](#). Let's read this together.

The human race believed Satan's lie that day and ever since we have been deceived, thinking we can tell the difference between good and evil on our own without God's help. God gave us two helpers though to tell the difference...the WORD and the HOLY SPIRIT!

You see Eve believed Satan in the Garden and ate the fruit. She gave it to Adam also and he ate it too. They disobeyed God and as a result they became spiritually dead. That means they lost their human spirits and their bodies received the sin nature. That sin nature has been passed down to every human being through Adam because he was responsible for their sin. He knew better! So now every child born gets this sin nature from their human fathers. The sin nature is in every cell of our bodies and stays there until we die. Sometimes it's called the "old man" or the "flesh". This sin nature or "flesh" is Satan's inside agent and it tempts you to do the things that God teaches us NOT to do. It makes us sin and it does it more than the world around you...Satan's other way of getting us to disobey God. This is why God gave us the Holy Spirit to live inside of us to fight the sin nature in our bodies.



Only Church Age believers (that's us) have the Holy Spirit living inside us to fight the sin nature because Jesus already went to the cross and died for our sins. He won the victory over sin and when He went up to heaven, He sent the Spirit down to live INSIDE us to fight that nasty sin nature! Jesus knew how much it would tempt us to disobey.

Between the Holy Spirit and the Word in your souls, you can tell the difference between good and evil and not get tricked by Satan, the sin nature, or the world. Fantastic, isn't it? God is a genius.

Before we go on let's look at the Greek words for *good* and *evil*.

They are *kalos* and *kakos*. Wow they are very similar aren't they? But there's a BIG difference. Let's see.



*Kalos* (good) means "excellent", "useful", "honorable." It is "excellent in its nature and characteristics." It means "genuine" and "approved."



*Kakos* (evil) means "of a bad nature;" "not such as it ought to be;" "useless," "wrong," "wicked," "troublesome," and "destructive."

We believers need to be able to tell the difference between them and [Heb 5:14](#) tells us how.

"But solid food (advanced doctrine that nourishes the spiritual adult) is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good (honorable) and evil (useless)". It's the Word in your soul. But don't worry if you're not a spiritual adult yet. God knows your heart and if you want to live in His plan and obey Him; the Holy Spirit will help you discern good from evil EVEN when you are still growing up in the Word.

It's amazing how many believers CANNOT tell the difference between that which is the plan of God and that which is total nonsense! Most times it's because they do not live in God's plan and don't study His Word. They get really confused and tricked by Satan. As Isaiah says, some believers call evil good and good evil. [Isa 5:20-21](#) "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! (21) Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight!" This is the opposite of good discernment. Guess what happens? They're tricked and think they are in the light when really they are in darkness! See how much we need God's Word in our souls?

One of the biggest examples of this is RELIGION! Yes, religion! Religion is NOT Christianity. Religious is Satan's idea. He invented it! Listen, people who are involved in religion are not necessarily believers because religion is one of Satan's biggest counterfeits!!! Look at what the Apostle Paul wrote about Satan in [2 Cor 11:14](#). "And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light." These are false teachers who change the Gospel, and facts about Jesus and the Holy Spirit. It's done in such a tricky way that people think it's good when in fact it's evil!!!

When you have doctrine in your soul that has been tested by God and we are always being tested on what we learn, you can see the evil that goes on in religion. But you'll be controversial when you call it what it is...evil and not good! Remember believers who reject God's Word ALWAYS believe the LIES of Satan and his cosmic system...the world. The world promotes religion!

Here's another example of mistaking evil for good: when a person intentionally commits murder and plans that murder and is found guilty in a court of law, that person should be put to death according to the Bible. **Exo 21:12 "Anyone who strikes a man and kills him shall surely be put to death."** That's the Truth of the Bible!!! But do we do that all the time? NO, we don't and many people who have been found guilty of murder are still alive in prisons all over this country because people don't know the Truth of the Bible or don't want to know the Truth. They believe it's wrong to put murderers to death. But it's NOT! While the majority of born again believers call it good, you because you have the Word in your soul, will see that it is horrible and evil.

The believer who learns good habits from God's Word and applies them, is a believer who can make proper discernments in life. What good habits? It's like that song from the musical Godspell:

Day by day  
Day by day  
Oh Dear Lord  
Three things I pray  
To see thee more clearly (learn the word of God)  
Love thee more dearly (make it your own)  
Follow thee more nearly (obey)  
Day by day



What will you do, kids? Like the song, will you learn the Word of God daily, make it your own and obey it? I pray you do. Never quit.

Close in prayer

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on January 5, 2012  
Lighthouse Bible Church

